

THE OLDTIMER

Volume 32, Number 1

The Newsletter of the Josephine County Historical Society

March, 1997

We have a date

MARCH

■ **March 17.** Kick-off of "Barn Again" exhibit. (See story at right.) Ribbon cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. Members attending gain free admission after the ceremony.

■ **March 29.** The annual style show of fashions past is at the Elks Lodge. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. Tickets are \$7 and include a light lunch at 11 a.m. Show's on at noon.

■ **All month.** Cool "Barn Again" stuff in the cases at Evergreen Federal.

APRIL

■ **April 5.** The Oregon Chautauqua Program includes two programs, the first is at the Ahlf House at 1:30 p.m., "Quilting Traditions in America" by Elizabeth Hoffman. Another program at the Schmidt House at 3 p.m. is tales from the Oregon Trail with Tom Nash.

■ **April 12** a caravan to Sunny Valley barns is planned.

■ **April 26** a slideshow on Josephine County's barns by George Kramer is at 3 p.m.

For information on any of these events call 479-7827.

Society lands Smithsonian exhibit

The Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibit, "Barn Again: Celebrating an American Icon," will be coming to the Josephine County Historical Society for public display in March.

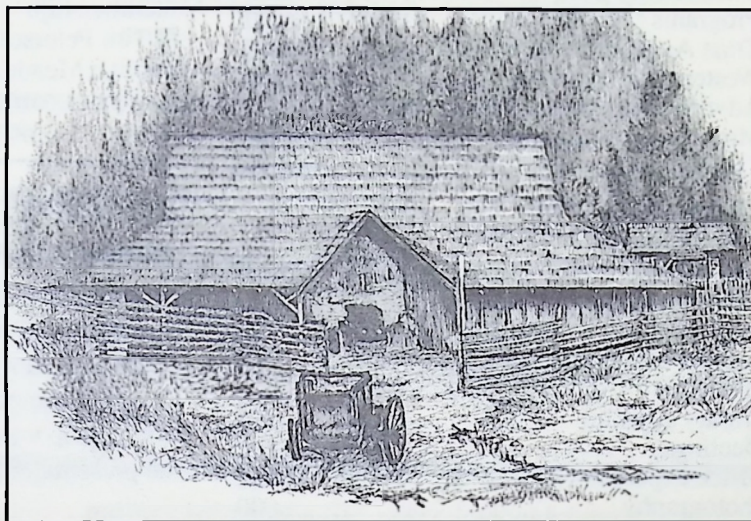
The exhibit opens on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, and remains until May 11, when it continues on to three other Oregon showings.

The exhibit features architectural models, photographs, popular culture objects and period advertisements. In addition to the materials provided by the Smithsonian, the society is putting together a portion of the show on local barns of interest.

Charlie Mitchell, the interim director of the Grants Pass Visitor and Convention Center and our own Executive Director Rose Scott are organizing community meetings to augment the exhibit with other events. Activities like a barn dance, speakers and a tour are being considered.

If members are interested in helping organize such events or have ideas, they're welcome to contact Scott at the society office. A story has already appeared in the Daily Courier and more information will be disseminated as events are finalized.

Developed by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Services and the National Building Museum, the exhibit's travels are funded by the National



Drawings of local barns by Pat Bristol will be included in the local portion of the exhibit. This is the Goff barn.

Endowment for the Humanities and a Smithsonian fund. Eventually, the exhibit will visit eight states, targeted to rural areas.

The exhibit may be put up in the Schmidt House Barn, assuming that the library has been moved into the new research library by then. Or, if that isn't possible, it will be set up in either the new building or the Schmidt House itself.

Either way, the show should bring many people who have never visited the society before to our doorstep.

During the exhibit's stay, hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Monday will be reserved for group tours from schools, which will be admitted free. Adult admission will be \$3. Group admission (12 or more) and children will be \$1 each.

Please suggest to other groups you belong to that this might be a fun outing. Call the office, 479-7827, to make a group reservation.

Inside:

Letters to the editor	2
Budget	2
In the community	3
History at the center	4-5
Mystery page	6
We need your recipes	7

1997 Budget

This is the 1997 budget approved Feb. 4 by the board of the Josephine County Historical Society:

INCOME

Donations	\$8,000
Giftshop	3,500
Library	1,200
Membership dues	11,250
Programs	5,500
Trust Account	15,600
Western Savings	1,000
Advertising income	2,100
Miscellaneous income	1,000
TOTAL	\$49,150

EXPENSES

Programs

Advertising	\$650
Association dues	565
Bookshop	900
Legal/professional fees	950
Insurance	2,525
Library supplies	300
Meetings	300
Office expenses	1,000
Photography	600
Postage	1,610
Printing	2,800
Recognitions	200
Miscellaneous expenses	2,075
Building & Grounds	
Security	500
Utilities	6,000
Building maintenance	2,000
Equipment maintenance	1,550
Grounds	2,500
Property Loan	3,060
Timberland	100
Wages & Benefits	
Salaries	15,000
Medical	975
FICA	1,390
Trust Management	1,600
TOTAL	49,150

Awards given at annual meeting

For those who missed the annual meeting at the Izaak Walton building, here's a run-down on the award winners:

■ Mel and Margie Shaw, long-time volunteers and board members, received an honorary membership.

■ Tim Peterson received the Pauline Meade Shier award for a student historian, while author

Larry McLane was given the adult historian award in Shier's name.

■ Tom Bristol was given the President's Award for his service to the society as a board member and representing us to several other organizations.

■ Mike Oaks was given the annual Award of Merit for his continuing research and efforts to bring history to just plain folks.

Letters to the editor

Dear Mike Oaks and the "Society Actors":

Thank you for coming to Senior Afternoon in the Library. Your group was wonderful and the presentation was a delight.

Julie Perry

RSVP Volunteer Coordinator

Larry McLane:

Thank you for your help in the 1996 genealogy seminar. Your class received lots of positive remarks and was a great help to genealogists.

Don Ness

LDS genealogical library

THE OLDTIMER

is the newsletter of the Josephine County Historical Society,
508 S.W. Fifth St., Grants Pass, OR 97526.
(541) 479-7827

❖
Annual membership dues are \$15 and include a subscription.
❖

Edith Decker — editor

Lee Ann Tardieu — publishing committee chairman

❖
The circulation of The Oldtimer is 650. It is published quarterly.
The publishing committee also produces an annual historical publication,
mailed free of charge to all members of the society.

SWISSMETRIC

1610 Parkdale Drive
Grants Pass, Oregon 97527
503 476-1771
Fax 503 479-2816

W.A. (AL) TILLERY



House of Insurance

HOME • AUTO • COMMERCIAL • LIFE

243 S.W. "J" Street
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

(503) 479-2666

Painting up for bid

A watercolor painting of the Schmidt House, painted and donated by Patti Young, is currently up for silent auction as a fundraiser for the society.

Currently the bid is \$150.

Come by the Schmidt House and see the painting (and make a bid, of course).

If you're seriously interested in the painting but can't make it in to the society for a look, call the office, 479-7827, and we'll mail you a snapshot.

Young co-owns Village Crafts in Grants Pass.

1997 officers, board members named

So here's what the new roster looks like now that the membership has voted and the new officers and board members sworn in:

OFFICERS

President: Roger Ramsey

President-elect: Joan Momsen

Secretary: Dorae Bowen

Treasurer: position open

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: Claudette Pruitt

Programs: Marilyn Luttrell

Research library: Janet

Lane

Publicity: Edith Decker

Finance: Jim Savard

Properties: Nancy

Campbell

Exhibits: Pat Bristol

Board Development: Tom

Bristol

Bookshop: Mel Shaw

Historic Sites: Mike Oaks

Publishing: Lee Ann

Tardieu •

Volunteers: Caroline Pitts

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Rick Alves

Judy Boling

Gordon Bowen

Jim Clark

Evelyn Davis

Dorothy Francis

Sherm Heater

Arden McConnell

Chuck Schilder

Louis Schultz Jr.

Virginia Steimer

Percy Wetherbee

If you're interested in the vacant Treasurer position or in helping on any of these committees, please call Rose Scott at the office, 479-7827.

In the community

■ **SPEAKING UP.** John Cova has been busy letting three groups in on some county history recently. On Nov. 19, he spoke to the Mary Martha Club at the First Christian Church about "Leroy Heston and the Cowboys." On Jan. 2, he dressed up as George Spencer, known to all as Blind George, and gave a half-hour presentation to the Gateway Rotary Club. He followed that up with the same presentation on Jan. 7 at the Wilderville Hi-Neighbor Night.

■ **ENTERTAINING THE SENIORS.** Mike Oaks and other members of the "Society Actors" presenting the stories of some of the town's characters to different groups around town, including a round at Senior Afternoon at the Library. Oaks plays J.W. Howard, the emcee, with Adeline Sullivan portraying Josephine Rollins Ort and John Cova as Blind George. Opal Gentner, the first lady driver in Grants Pass, is portrayed by Claudette Pruitt and Dorothy Francis plays

milliner Miss Sadie Clevenger. Larry McLane plays his own relative, Jake Yokum. Judy Boling and her daughter Jean portray the Schmidt sisters, Anna and Flora. A recent addition to the group is Mel Shaw, who plays David Briggs, of the Briggs Gold Strike family. If a group you belong to might be interested in a presentation — especially if they might be willing to offer a donation to the society for the entertainment — please let us know.


■ **HELPING THE SEARCHERS, THE KIDS.** Larry McLane offered a workshop as part of the annual LDS genealogical library's seminar on searching for your ancestors. Also, he helped when Mike Tripp brought his two history classes to the Golden ghost town on a field trip in October. (Roger Ramsey, Golden's mayor and our new prez had to be at work.) McLane gave the group a great overview of mining in the county, showed Ramsey's artifacts — and survived.



Michael Peil
President

1304 N.W. 6th St.
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

(541) 474-7278
FAX (541) 474-7106



CLARK'S INSURANCE, INC.
"Service is the Key since 1930"

Imagine Competitive Rates
& Personalized Service
Four Generations
Going Strong

HOME • AUTO • LIFE • BUSINESS

620 S.W. 6th St.
Grants Pass, OR

Jeff Clark • Cella Clark
Irene Christie • Sue Klumph
Jim Clark • Leroy Tipton

476-7715

Edward Jones

Gary Black, Jr.
Investment Representative

Edward D. Jones & Co.
117 N.W. "E" St.
Grants Pass, OR 97526
Bus 541 479-6432 Res 541 479 7362

Serving Individual Investors Since 1871



969 SE Sixth St., Grants Pass 541/479-3351

History at the center

Early Spanish in the Rogue River Valley?

By Mike Oaks

No amigos, this is not a history of our Spanish friends in the Rogue River Valley, but of an interesting series of discoveries beginning in 1852 at the Logan placer mine near the townsite of Waldo in the Illinois Valley.

These discoveries were made in the area of Sailor's Diggings, discovered by two sailors who jumped ship at Crescent City and were heading for Jacksonville in 1851.

At a mine owned by a man named Simmons in 1852, the Rogue River Courier states that after the usual cleaning up of the surface gold, the miners decided to move a wall of gravel back from the creek. Much to their surprise, a trench was discovered laying under the gravel and was filled in with gravel and soil of a completely

different composition than the gravel in the immediate area.

When their work progressed, it left no doubt that some previous gold seeker had dug the trench. An estimated 150 years had lapsed for the trench to be filled in by the elements.

Some time later, a small crucifix was washed from the gravel banks into the sluices, hinting of some connection between the past gold seeker and the trench.

In about 1902, another clue to the mysterious trench diggers surfaced in the form of a small pendant bearing the Latin legend: *Mater Dolorosa — Ora Pro Nobis*. No translation was mentioned in the Courier article of July 2, 1916, in which the find was discussed. So I called Father Todd of the local St. Anne Catholic Church, who said the inscription means "Our Mother of Sorrows." The words surrounded the figure of a saint whose

head was circled by a halo and whose heart was pierced by seven daggers. Father Todd says that "The figure is of the Virgin Mary and the piercing of the heart is the suffering she went through on behalf of her beloved son Jesus Christ." The pendant is worn by members of the Servite Order, related to the Franciscans.

According to the 1916 article, after some further research, it was felt that the early trenching had been done by Franciscan Friars.

The friars founded the Mission of Monterey in the year 1770 and later founded the Mission Dolores in San Francisco. The last discovery at the Logan mine in the early spring of 1916 was of a Spanish coin bearing the date of 1784. This fixed the date of the trench from which it came as 1784 or soon after.

It is now thought to be extremely probable that some very early gold

Bonded

CCB #98121

ZODIAC GARDENS



Once-in-a-Blue Moon Finds

BUY • SELL • TRADE
CONSIGN • APPRAISALS
ESTATES BOUGHT

Ward & Patricia Warren

220 S.W. 6th Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526
474-MOON/474-6666

Seventh & Midland Branch
476-1401

Fruitdale Branch
476-1177



Valley of the Rogue Bank

Seventh & Midland, Grants Pass, OR • 1040 Rogue River Hwy., Grants Pass, OR

PHOTO DEN CAMERA



VIDEO

Heritage Square
315 S.E. 7th Street
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

(503) 479-7595

"No Body Cares More About Your Image"

History at the center

Continued from page 5.

mining Spaniards made the trip into the basin of the Rogue.

According to the 1916 article, the Spanish piece had been worn thin and was much scratched and nicked by grinding of gravel and sand and had been struck in two places by some sharp instrument. The legend on the face of the coin read "*Carolus III — Del Gratia 1784*" and surrounded the bust of the ruler. On the obverse was the royal coat of arms encircled by the words "*Rex Imperator Hispanola Et Ind.*" Translation gives the coin to the reign of Charles III of Spain, which extended from 1759 to 1788. He was designated King and Emperor of Spain and the Indies on the coin.

My own personal belief, based on quite a few years of study, is that the very same route taken by the Hudson Bay Company men in 1825 or 1826

over the Siskiyou was first traversed by the American Indians and used often for trading goods back and forth between California and Oregon tribes. It is also known that the whole of the United States was criss-crossed with Indian trails.

So why wouldn't the Franciscan Friars or at least Spanish-speaking, Catholic lay people have traveled that same trail over the mountains into the Illinois Valley?

There were no "Welcome to California" or "Welcome to Oregon" signs indicating a boundary line, after all.

Ancient documents contain reference to Southern Oregon, considering it to be part of California. The boundary line between the states was not surveyed until 1859. The 1852 miners of Yreka, Jacksonville and the 1853 town of Crescent City didn't know whether they were

Californians or Oregonians.

Please note: The mine called the Logan mine in 1916 was sold in 1917 to George Esterly and became the Esterly Mine. His beautiful house on the property was named Llano de Oro. Whenever a mine changes ownership, often a name change occurs with it.

Meanwhile, the pendant and coin were on display for all to see in the Courier office in 1916 after the story ran. The pair have since disappeared, probably going back to the Esterly family who owned the mine where they were found. However, if anyone knows the whereabouts of the crucifix and coin, I'd love to know what became of them and examine them myself.

Sources:

The July 2, 1916 Rogue River Courier
The Oregon Metal Mines Handbook for Josephine County

ROE MOTORS inc

201 NE 7th St.
Grants Pass, OR 97526

Ross N. Roe
President


476-7701

or 779-7153

Eves: 476-7251

Nat'l Wats: 1-800-624-4451

CADILLAC • BUICK • PONTIAC • OLDSMOBILE • GMC TRUCKS

Your  Department Store

GARY PETERSON

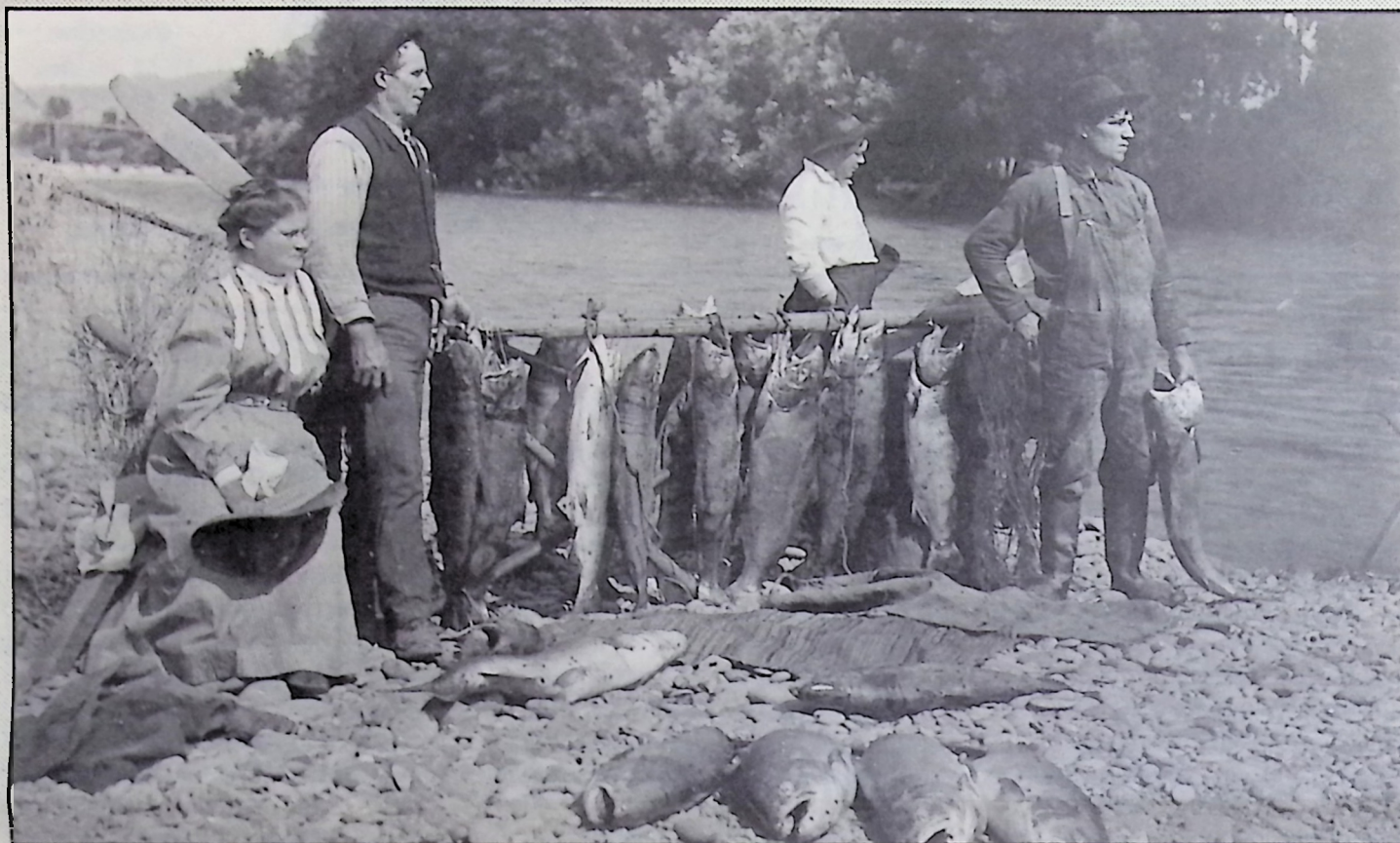
ASPHALT or CONCRETE PAVING

479-2981

910 Southeast "M" Street

Redimix Concrete • Septic Tanks • Sewer Hookups
Residential • Commercial

Mystery photo: This photo says only "Commercial Fishermen." Any idea who these obviously lucky anglers were?



Reproductions of this and other cool photos from our files are available from the research library.

Words from the bookshop

By Dorothy Francis

Mel Shaw has taken over running the bookshop in the Schmidt House and wasted no time in putting some new volumes on the shelves (both actually new books and just some new titles for us).

Come by and have a look:

"Jim Bridger: Mountain Man," a biography by Stanley Vestal. \$12.

"Jo Meek: The Merry Mountain Man," another biography by Stanley Vestal. \$12.

"Pioneer Homesteaders of the Fort Rock Valley" by Raymond Hatton, \$9.50.

"Talent: Worth Its Weight in Gold,"

by Yvonne Reynolds. \$12.95.

"The Making of Oregon," by Samuel N. Dicken and Emily F. Dicken, published by the Oregon Historical Society. This is a historical geography of Oregon in hardback at \$12.50.

"Yamsi," which details a year in the life of a wilderness ranch, is by Dayton Hyde. \$15.95.

"The Shasta Indians of California and Their Neighbors" by Elizabeth Renfro. \$8.95.

"Conversations with Pioneer Men: The Lockley Files," these are stories by Fred Lockley, compiled by Mike Helm. \$22.

"Talking on Paper," edited by

Shannon Applegate and Terrence O'Donnell. \$21.95.

"Wildmen, Wobblers and Whistle Punks" by Stewart Holdbrook, edited and introduced by Brian Booth. \$15.95.

"The Applegate Trail of 1846" by William Emerson. A documentary guide to the original emigrant route. \$19.95.

On our "we finally have it available again list" are two favorites by Percy Booth: "The Legend of Indian Mary and Umpqua Joe" at \$7.95 and "Valley of the Rogues" at \$6.95.

These are available thanks to Booth's son Dick, who's also a writer, having them reprinted.

Publishing committee plans a recipe book

By Lee Ann Tardieu

On August 25, 1996, the society lost one of its most valued and respected members: Edna May J. Hill.

Edna May spent many hours volunteering for the society and, as a writer, served on the publishing committee and worked to publish works on history.

The publishing committee has devised the idea of a cookbook to be dedicated to Edna May and her efforts for the society that will also bring in much-needed funding for future society publications — including reprints of Edna May's books for the history loving public.

We're now in the process of gathering recipes — especially those with historic significance to the families of this county — or just plain old, interesting or “handed-down” recipes.

We have already received many recipes for main dishes and desserts. We can always use more, but have few for salads, sauces, breads and vegetables.

Depending on how large the book is, the cost will vary between \$7 and \$10.

Please print or type your recipe on the provided form. Be careful to follow the format — the company that will be printing our book specializes in these projects and will accept only recipes that are clear and on this form. (It's part of keeping the costs down.)

We need your recipes to make this project a success, so please take a few minutes to put down your favorite family recipe.

Below is the form that must be used to submit recipes for the book. Return the filled-out forms to the society office in person or by mail. Feel free to make Xerox copies of the form, but do not enlarge or reduce the size.

[illegible]

In memorium

The society regrets to inform the membership that the following members have passed away since our last newsletter:

Bertha Calhoun



Myrna Smith



Mike Wells



**Lynn Felkner
Foster**

From the collection

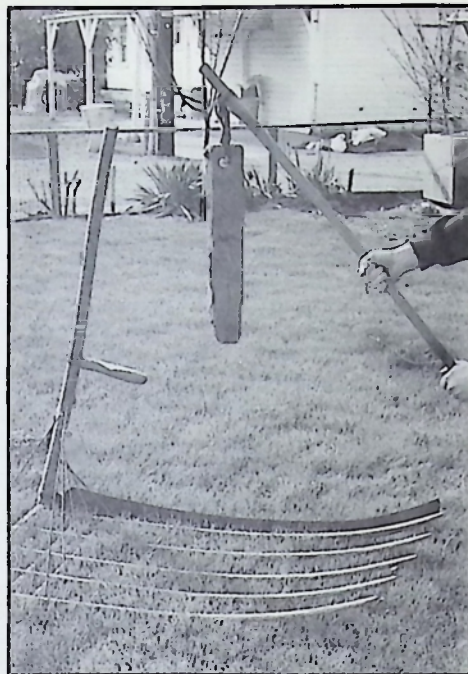
Flailing around

"From the collection." features interesting items in the care of the society. Some may be recent acquisitions or some may be long held by the society.

In order to find some local artifacts for the "Barn Again" exhibit, we dug around in the collection and came up with these two large farm items.

The cradle was an evolutionary step up from the scythe. The cradle has wooden bars added to the blade that cuts the grain. The bars catch the grain and the blade cuts it. When a load of stalks collect on the cradle, the harvester can drop the grain into neat piles.

The heavy block is the remainder of a flail. The flail beats the heads of the wheat from their stocks. Until threshing machines were invented the flail was the most commonly used ancient tool on the farm. Leather straps connect the pole to the heavy wood paddle, allowing it to swing in all directions.



THE OLDTIMER NEWSLETTER

Josephine County Historical Society
Schmidt House
508 SW Fifth Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526

U.S. Postage Paid
Non-profit Organization
Permit No. 174
Grants Pass, OR 96526



Eagle Point. Hist. Soc.
P.O.Box 201
Eagle Point OR 97524

Exp: —



SMITHSONIAN
Exhibit, March 17 — May 11, 1997
Grants Pass, Oregon